

REMARKS**Summary of the Office Action**

Claims 1, 8, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,580,901 to *Mochizuki* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,038,428 to *Mizusawa et al.*

Claims 2-7, 9-13 and 15 stand allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have amended claims 2, 3, 6, 9, 10, 12, and 14. No new matter has been introduced. Claims 1, 8, and 15 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 2-7 and 9-14 are presently pending.

All Claims Recite Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter in claims 2-7, 9-13 and 15. Solely to expedite prosecution of this application, claims 2, 3, 6, 9, 10, 12, and 14 have been amended in accordance with the Office's indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants believe that the application is in clear condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the Response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: April 16, 2009

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